

The Vale Veterinary Centre Small Animal Newsletter



**Animal corner**  
Including sheep, guinea pigs, rabbits, tortoises and a calf!

**Competitions and Raffle!!**  
In aid of the Cullompton Wildlife Centre

**Staff News**

A warm welcome to Tina Walters and Caroline Bowd who have recently joined our reception team.

We also bid farewell to Julie Daniels and Amy House who were kind enough to come back and fill in whilst we were short staffed.

**Discounted microchipping!**

**Cullompton Surgery is having an OPEN DAY!!**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
11am-4pm**

**Money off vouchers**  
See back for details

**Dog training display!**

**Myxomatosis**

Now that summer is finally on its way, its time to think about rabbit vaccination.

Myxomatosis is a fatal viral disease of rabbits. It can be spread by most blood sucking insects such as mosquitoes, fleas, ticks, lice and mites which means this can be very rapid in the summer months. It can also be passed on by direct contact with an affected rabbit or its cage.

Affected rabbits have a fever and become lethargic. There is usually swelling and discharge from the eyes, ears and nose and swelling of the genital area which is very uncomfortable. The rabbit becomes more and more depressed, may suffer difficulty breathing and will also stop eating, slowly leading to death over approximately 10 days.

There is no treatment for myxomatosis. Attempts at supportive care with fluids, syringe feeding and antibiotics are rarely successful in a rabbit that has never been vaccinated.

Simply vaccinating the rabbit every 6 months will go a long way to preventing this fatal disease. Vaccinated rabbits can still get a mild form of the disease but this is usually manageable with minimal supportive care at home and these rabbits usually recover fully



**DOGS DIE IN HOT CARS....**



Remember; don't leave your dogs in cars over the summer months. Studies have shown that an outside temperature of 75°F (24°C) can cause temperatures of 102°F (39°C) inside a car within 10minutes and 120°F (49°C) in 30 minutes. EVEN WITH THE WINDOW OPEN. A Dog can only withstand a body temperature of up to 107-108°F for a short time before suffering brain damage and death.

Also don't forget your small furies. Although it's great for them to be outside in the nice weather, make sure that they have plenty of shade.



# ATTENTION ALL RABBIT OWNERS!!

Every summer we see countless numbers of rabbits with Flystrike. This can be a devastating and potentially fatal condition that all rabbit owners should be aware of. However it is very easy to prevent.

## What is Flystrike?

Flystrike occurs during the summer months with the warmer weather. It is caused by flies that land on the rabbit and lay eggs. It almost always starts around the rabbit's bottom as flies are attracted to faeces. The fly eggs very quickly hatch into maggots and the maggots eat the rabbit's flesh. As the maggots grow, they eat further into the rabbit causing skin and tissue damage and if not found in time shock will soon follow. Badly affected rabbits may have to be put down.

## Which animals may be affected?

Flies will strike any healthy animal, but generally it is those which have a wet or dirty groin, that are most at risk. However, any rabbit which is unable to clean itself properly may become infested. Typically this includes obese rabbits, elderly or arthritic rabbits, and those with teeth problems who are unable to groom themselves. Any animal with a wound is also a prime candidate for the fly to lay its eggs, as the odour and moisture from the flesh attracts these insects.



**Do you have any old towels or blankets you no longer use??**

**If so, we at The Vale would be happy to take them off your hands!! Just bag them up, bring them in and give them to our reception team.**

**Thank you very much!**

## Now is the time to act! Prevention is better than cure.....

Flystrike can be prevented by taking a few simple measures. Good husbandry is paramount in protecting your rabbit.

- Remove all soiled bedding daily
- Ensure that your bunny is not being overfed, as this can result in diarrhoea, leading to a dirty bottom
- Check your rabbit twice daily to ensure that it is clean and dry
- Disinfect hutches every week

A simple but very effective spot-on preparation, called **Rear Guard** is available. When applied to your rabbit it will protect against flystrike for 10 weeks.

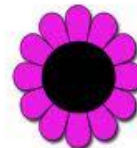


For more information, please contact one of our nurses on 01884 35558. They can answer any questions you may have, demonstrate how to apply Rear Guard, and discuss weight, diet and general husbandry.

## What to do if you find maggots on your rabbit....

First of all – try not to panic, but do act quickly, as this is an emergency. Contact your vet straight away who will advise an examination to assess your rabbits condition. Flyblown rabbits are usually in pain and shock and need careful nursing. They may need to be admitted to the surgery.

**The Vale Veterinary Centre.**  
**Cullompton 01884 35558. Uffculme 01884**  
**841317. Whimple 01404 823230**



## OPEN DAY-PET SHOP VOUCHER-4/9/10

Save £5.00 when you spend £50.00 or over\*  
OR Save £2.00 when you spend £25.00 or over\*

\*Voucher can only be used to purchase products in our pet shop. Excludes all other goods and services. Voucher is valid for 4/9/10 only. No cash alternative. Only one voucher per purchase. Voucher cannot be used in conjunction with any other voucher, offer or promotion. Valid at the Cullompton surgery only.

Surname:- \_\_\_\_\_

Pet Name- \_\_\_\_\_

Total purchase: - £ \_\_\_\_\_